

New law authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Environmental Quality to establish and implement a program for the control and abatement of motor vehicle emissions in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, particularly the federal Clean Air Act, but not to exceed the requirements provided in such Act unless specifically authorized. Also provides that such program shall be applicable only in parishes and municipalities that, as of June 30, 1999, have been placed on the nonattainment list for ozone standards and classified as "serious" or worse by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The fees due the department for this program shall be deposited into the Environmental Trust Fund. Provides that the inspection and maintenance of motor vehicles required by new law shall begin on January 1, 2000.

New law provides that for parishes and municipalities that have been placed on the nonattainment list for ozone standards and classified as "serious" or worse by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as of June 30, 1999, an additional \$3 fee for each inspection shall be charged, beginning July 1, 1999. Between July 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999, the entire \$3 will go to the inspection stations. After December 31, 1999, up to \$1 may be transferred to the Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality to implement the inspection and maintenance program (I/M) and up to \$2 may be retained by the operator of the motor vehicle inspection station in the affected parishes that perform I/M requirements to cover the cost of the additional equipment and labor. The secretary may promulgate rules to determine the amount of the fee after December 31, 1999, and how much will be allocated to DEQ and how much will be allocated to the inspection stations.

New law further provides that the fees and program shall be discontinued if the parishes are no longer in violation of the ozone levels and no longer classified as "serious" or worse, as long as such discontinuance does not violate any EPA requirements or agreements or result in noncompliance.

New law deletes prior law authorizing the secretary to adopt and promulgate rules to establish and implement a program for the control and abatement of motor vehicle emissions. Deletes prior law providing that such regulations include biennial emission inspections for vehicles in certain ozone nonattainment areas, imposition of certain fees, certain annual reports and reports to the legislative auditor showing costs and revenues for the inspection program, requirements concerning privately operated facilities and on road testing, vehicle scrappage programs, educational programs, test technology, public meetings in affected parishes, and that no vehicle shall be subject to such emissions inspection before January 1, 1999. Also repeals prior law providing for effects of failing an emission inspection and certain exceptions for motor vehicles being titled for the first time.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 30, 1999).

[Note: Section 3 of Act No. 393 of the 1995 R.S. states that the provisions of R.S. 30:2454(B)(8) shall not be implemented after January 1, 1998, unless the program provided for therein is reauthorized by the legislature in the regular session in 1997 and thereafter in each regular session in odd- numbered years.]

(Amends R.S. 30:2054(B)(8) and R.S. 32:1306(C); Repeals R.S. 32:1304(D)(2) and (3))